

out this summer. I hope all  
will arrive in good condition.

I have just received a  
package of plants marked,  
"portion of Elliott Herbarium,  
returned by Torrey & Gray", but  
as yet no letter. I am uncertain  
whether they be all that were lent.  
Among them are Smilaxes, Trilliums  
Gramineae, Orchids, & Endogones  
in abundance.

Yours truly  
Lewis R. Gibbs

Charleston 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1837

Prof. Wm Gray  
Botanic Garden  
Cambridge Mass

My dear Sir,

I have just despatched  
per Express, to the above address  
a small box containing two specimens  
or rather groups of specimens, of Epi-  
dendron for the Garden. In cutting  
down the tree the greater portion of the  
little forest of plants became de-  
tached from the bark a few only retain-  
ed their attachment; I send one group  
of each sort and hope they will succeed  
with you. I have nailed mine to a  
piece of oak bark against my piazza  
posts in the city, and shall await  
the result.

In the same box I have put two specimens of Cactus from Beaufort. Some ten or twelve years ago on a visit to Beaufort I observed an enormous Cactus (compared with our common one) growing in groups in the streets of that town ~~or~~ rather on the open lots near the streets. I have never seen the flower, but it must certainly be a different species; what one I know not. I tried to get some of the inhabitants to lend it to me, but you <sup>know</sup> it is hard to persuade people that a common Prickly Pear is worth noticing. It has at last been sent me, and send you half my stock. ~~It~~ It is not as large as I expected to see it, from my recollection of it, but

I am assured that these plants are from the identical group that I remarked as I passed the spot a few years ago; the cold of our severe winter would tend to have had a ~~retarding~~ effect on its growth. I take <sup>it</sup> to have been introduced by the Spaniards, <sup>or other settlers, French?</sup> in early times possibly from the cultivation of cochineal insects. Every body in Beaufort says it has always been there, and recognize it as different from the common one. I am informed that a cochineal insect is common, if not abundant, on it during the summer, which I have never observed to be the case with the common one. Do inform <sup>me</sup> of the species ~~as soon~~ as you make it